

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE
No. 119

NOTICE OF
FORMAL PROCEEDINGS

TO JUDGE NORMAN W. GORDON:

It appearing that from January 2, 1983 to the present you have been a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, your current term beginning in January 1991; and

Preliminary investigation having been made pursuant to the provisions of rule 904 of the California Rules of Court concerning censure, removal, retirement or private admonishment of judges, during the course of which preliminary investigation you were afforded a reasonable opportunity to present such matters as you chose, and this Commission as a result of the preliminary investigation, having concluded that formal proceedings to inquiry into the charges against you shall be instituted pursuant to section 18 of Article VI of the California Constitution and in accordance with rules 901-922, California Rules of Court,

Now therefore, you are hereby charged with wilful misconduct in office and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute.

The particulars of the charges are as follows:

It is charged that from January, 1990 through December, 1992 you engaged in a pattern of inappropriate, offensive and unacceptable conduct toward female members of the court staff in that you routinely used abusive, sexually offensive and demeaning language and gestures to and with female members of the court staff and that you engaged in offensive and unwanted touching of a sexual nature with the female members of the court staff in and around your court and chambers during working hours as described in Counts One through Eight.

COUNT ONE

You frequently asked female members of your court staff about sexual matters, including their sexual practices. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- a) You routinely asked the female members of your court staff, "Did you get any last night?"
- b) You repeatedly asked court reporter Carol Crawley, "How's your 'pussy'?"
- c) You repeatedly asked court reporter Carol Crawley if she gave her husband "head."
- d) When Crawley had a doctor's appointment, you asked her if she had seen a "pussy doctor".
- e) When court reporter Lorinda Tidmore was pregnant, you asked if she were "still fucking her husband," and, if not, did she "give head" to him.

f) When clerk Raquel Samudio told you she was visiting a male friend in Texas, you said, "Good, you'll be getting some."

g) You asked Samudio if she had given "head" to her ex-husband.

COUNT TWO

On numerous occasions you offered to have sexual relations with female court staff members. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

a) You said to court reporter Carol Crawley that you wanted to "eat" her "pussy."

b) On several occasions, you suggested to Carol Crawley that she "come over and lie down" with you on the couch in your chambers.

c) You frequently asked Carol Crawley for a "blow job"; once, when Carol Crawley asked if she might leave early, you said she could if she gave you and your bailiff (who was present) each a "blow job" for Christmas.

d) When Carol Crawley admitted to marital problems in response to your questioning, you offered to "satisfy" her.

e) You discussed with female court staff members your sexual practices and stated and implied you were "good in bed."

COUNT THREE

You routinely addressed and referred to your female court staff by vulgar and demeaning names and descriptions. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

a) You routinely addressed Carol Crawley as "little oral copulator" and "snatch" and referred to her as the "little cock-sucker."

b) On numerous occasions you called Carol Crawley "little penis-licking, cock-sucking, mother-fucker."

c) You called court clerk Raquel Samudio "little Mexican," "stupid little Mexican," and "peon".

COUNT FOUR

You repeatedly referred to the physical features of female court staff members in their presence and remarked to them about the physical features of other women including attorneys and litigants in your court. For example, you once said to an attorney in your court in reference to court reporter Carol Crawley, who was present, "Doesn't she have a nice big ass?" and when court clerk Raquel Samudio showed you a photograph of her deceased mother, you commented that Samudio's mother had "nice, big lips, good for oral sex."

COUNT FIVE

You repeatedly made sexually suggestive gestures when you were on the bench. For example, you would move your tongue in and out between your fingers and this was directed toward female court staff in your court.

COUNT SIX

You sent female court staff sexually-suggestive postcards. A copy of one such card is attached.

COUNT SEVEN

You repeatedly touched and attempted to touch court reporter Carol Crawley in a sexually offensive manner. This touching and attempted touching was without Crawley's consent and was unwanted. Examples of your conduct in this regard include:

a) You touched Carol Crawley's buttocks and breasts; you often attempted to, or gestured as if to touch her breasts and buttocks.

b) You often grasped and held Carol Crawley from behind while gyrating your hips against her.

c) On October 27, 1992, you tried to touch Carol Crawley's crotch; Crawley reacted to defend herself from this unwanted touching by striking you with her fist.

COUNT EIGHT

Following the incident described in Count 7(c) above, you began to treat Crawley in a retaliatory fashion. For example, you threatened to "throw her out" of your court.

As a result of your actions, Crawley refused further assignment to your courtroom and began a temporary assignment to Commissioner Anita Rae Shapiro's court; during this period of time, you laughed at her when you would see her in the hallway or in other courtrooms. You met repeatedly with Commissioner Shapiro, to whose court Crawley aspired for permanent assignment, and spoke negatively about Crawley. Commissioner Shapiro ultimately chose another reporter, reportedly because there were "problems" between you and Crawley.

On December 31, 1992, you terminated your court clerk Raquel Samudio in apparent retaliation for her disapproval of your treatment of Carol Crawley.

It is asserted that your conduct as charged in this notice was in disregard of California Code of Judicial Conduct, Canons 1, 2, 2A and 3B(5) and constitutes wilful misconduct in office and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute within the meaning of the California Constitution, Article VI, section 18, subdivision (c).

You have the right to file a written answer to the charges against you within fifteen days after service of this notice upon you. The answer must be filed with the Commission on Judicial Performance, 101 Howard Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California 94105. The answer must be verified, must conform in style to California Rules of Court, rule 15, subdivision (c), and must consist of an original and eleven legible copies.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE

DATED: June 27, 1994


CHAIRPERSON

Attachment



Dear Robbie,
 I knew this
 card would
 appear to you
 the moment
 I said it

L 149

FISA - Great Britain - LONDON



The following post codes are used for the postal service of the family:
 Die Freundeskreisarte
 2 postal de amis: 1709
 Vriendenkring posten
 Oskritia diunshi
 La cartolina dell'amicizia
 La postalito de la amiceo



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Golden Shield

FRANCO 15 - Rendite 26 - Rendite 26 - Rendite 26